

Message Text

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INR/RSE:MMAUTNER
EUR/SOV:KBROWN
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O R 160104Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS:NATO, PARM, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV'S KOMSOMOL SPEECH

REFS: A) USNATO 4646, DTG 101350Z MAY 78; B) USNATO 4705,
DTG 111629Z MAY 78 (NOTAL); C) MOSCOW 9380, DTG 281943Z
APRIL 78 (NOTAL)

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1. WE FIND THE SOVIET APPROACH TO THE ITALIANS CONCERNING
BREZHNEV'S KOMSOMOL SPEECH REPORTED REF A INTERESTING AND
WILL APPRECIATE HEARING FROM POLADS IF SOVIETS HAVE MADE
SIMILAR PRESENTATIONS IN OTHER ALLIED CAPITALS. APART FROM
BOGDANOV --LEONARD CONVERSATION REPORTED REF C, SOVIETS
HAVE NOT RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH US.

2. FOLLOWING IS INR ANALYSIS OF BREZHNEV'S SPEECH WHICH YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO SHARE WITH POLADS AS REQUESTED (REF B). BEGIN TEXT:

(1) BREZHNEV'S POSTURE ON DISARMAMENT

A. IN HIS SPEECH ON APRIL 25, BREZHNEV PROVIDED THE FIRST OFFICIAL SOVIET ASSESSMENT OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO

MOSCOW AND SET THE TONE FOR SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) NEXT MONTH. ON ONE HAND, BREZHNEV STRESSED COOPERATION WITH THE US BY WELCOMING PROGRESS IN BILATERAL TALKS ON SALT AND THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE EMPHASIZED RIVALRY WITH THE US AS HE APPEALED TO THE NONALIGNED WITH A PROPAGANDISTIC PACKAGE ON PROPOSALS FOR FREEZING THE FORCES OF THE GREAT POWERS. HE ALSO SOUGHT A PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVANTAGE BY CALLING ON THE US AND NATO TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT BY MUTUAL EXAMPLE. BREZHNEV DID NOT SAY WHETHER HE WOULD ATTEND THE SSOD, BUT HIS SPEECH WAS APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO IMPROVE HIS PUBLIC POSTURE IN CASE HE DECIDES TO COME TO NEW YORK.

B. BREZHNEV EMPHASIZED SOVIET INTEREST IN ONGOING MAJOR DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS:

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-- ON SALT, HE NOTED THAT SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP AND, BACKING OFF FROM HIS EARLIER INSISTENCE THAT THE BALL WAS IN THE US COURT, SAID HE BELIEVED THAT RECIPROCAL EFFORTS WOULD LEAD TO A SUCCESSFUL COMPROMISE.

-- ON MBFR, HE WAS SKEPTICAL OF THE LATEST WESTERN PROPOSALS AS ONE-SIDED, BUT HE CALLED FOR THE WORK IN VIENNA TO GO ON.

-- ON THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN, BREZHNEV WELCOMED RECENT PROGRESS AND HOPED THAT A TREATY WOULD SOON BE COMPLETED.

C. WHILE DISMISSING THE PRESIDENT'S POSTPONEMENT OF NEUTRON BOMB PRODUCTION AS "AT BEST A HALF MEASURE," BREZHNEV SAID THAT THE USSR WOULD RECIPROCATATE BY NOT STARTING TO PRODUCE NEUTRON WEAPONS AS LONG AS THE US DID NOT. HE APPARENTLY HOPED TO DEFLECT WESTERN PRESSURE FOR SOVIET RESTRAINT IN ARMORED FORCES AND SS-20 MOBILE IRBMS BY TRYING ONCE MORE TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO REFRAIN FROM BUILDING ITS OWN NEUTRON BOMB AS THE

RIGHT QUID PRO QUO FOR WESTERN RENUNCIATION OF ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS.

D. BREZHNEV EMPHATICALLY STRESSED THAT THE USSR HAD NO INTENTION OF INCREASING ITS FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE BY A SINGLE SOLDIER OR TANK AND CALLED UPON WESTERN STATES TO FOLLOW THIS SALUTARY EXAMPLE. ALTHOUGH THE WEST HAS REJECTED AN EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL IN VIENNA, BREZHNEV

MAY FEEL THAT HE CAN GET MORE MILEAGE OUT OF THIS VARIATION BECAUSE IT DOES NOT CALL FOR A FORMAL AGREEMENT.

E. BREZHNEV UNVEILED A PROGRAM "TO PUT A COMPLETE STOP TO ANY FURTHER QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE GROWTH OF ARMA-
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MENTS AND ARMED FORCES OF STATES WITH LARGE MILITARY POTENTIAL" WHICH THE USSR WILL PRESUMABLY PRESS AT THE SSOD. BREZHNEV ALMOST CERTAINLY DOES NOT EXPECT HIS PLAN TO BE ADOPTED. HE PROBABLY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL APPEAL TO THE NONALIGNED. BREZHNEV:

-- REPEATED HIS PROPOSAL OF LAST FALL FOR CESSATION OF MANUFACTURE OF ALL TYPES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS;

-- PROPOSED TO STOP MANUFACTURING AND TO BAN ALL OTHER TYPES OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS;

-- PROPOSED TO STOP DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHLY DESTRUCTIVE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS; AND

-- CALLED ON PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THEIR ALLIES TO RENOUNCE EXPANSION OF THEIR ARMIES AND INCREASES IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS. THIS PROPOSAL APPEARS AIMED AT CURRENT NATO FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS AND APPEARS TO BE DESIGNED TO PUT PEKING ON THE DEFENSIVE.

F. IN A GESTURE DESIGNED TO APPEAL TO THE NONALIGNED AT THE SSOD, BREZHNEV ANNOUNCED THAT THE USSR WOULD ACCEDE TO ONE OF THE PROTOCOLS OF THE 1967 TREATY OF TACTELCO, WHICH ESTABLISHES A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN LATIN AMERICA.

G. IN A PASSAGE NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS LENGTH AND DEFENSIVENESS, BREZHNEV REJECTED "IMPERIALIST" CLAIMS THAT SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE THROWN OFF THE "COLONIAL YOKE" CONTRADICTS DETENTE OR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE OR REPRESENTS SOVIET EXPANSIONISM. IT IS THE "IMPERIALIST" POWERS, HE CLAIMED, WHICH VIOLATE THIS NORM OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE TO OBSTRUCT THE "PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT" OF
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THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES. IN EFFECT, HE DEFENDED
THE SOVIET ROLE IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA AND INDICATED THERE
WOULD BE NO BACKTRACKING ON THAT SCORE. END TEXT.

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